

Cedar River Anadromous Fish Committee

**Summary Minutes
November 18, 2004**

Meeting Time 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

**Meeting Location:
Metering Building, Second Floor Conference Room
SPU Operations Control Center
2700 Airport Way South
Seattle, WA**

Members and Alternates Present: Bruce Bachen (SPU), Hans Berge (KC), Brodie Antipa (WDFW) Dennis Moore (MIT), Bill Robinson (Public), Phyllis Meyers (NMFS), Tim Romanski (USFWS), Chuck Wischman and Bill McKay (PSA), Kathy Hopper (LLK)

Other Participants: Joan Thomas (WDFW), Judith Noble and Paul Faulds (SPU)

Public: Toby Thaler

Call to order

Bruce Bachen called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM. He asked Toby Thaler if he would be speaking to the AFC during the public comment period and he said maybe.

Approval of agenda

Members unanimously approved the agenda.

Meeting minutes review and approval from October 21, 2004

The AFC unanimously approved the meeting minutes from October 21, 2004 following some minor changes recommended by Phyllis M. and Steve Foley (email communication).

Interim mitigation program for coho, Chinook and steelhead

Presentation on recolonization above Landsburg by anadromous fish: population, community and ecosystem-level effects – Peter Kiffney

Using a PowerPoint presentation Peter briefed members on the recolonization studies conducted in 2004 above the Landsburg Dam, specifically the work involving habitat surveys, water chemistry, stable isotopes, and fish surveys.

Update on peer review of *O. mykiss* study

Bruce noted that Don Campton (UWFS) has all the materials needed for the peer review and that he would check with him to see if he would do the review. Hans B. also suggested the AFC consider Karl Ostberg as a reviewer.

Final RFP and distribution

Bruce encouraged members to provide the RFP study questions to all interested parties. He recommended that proposals be submitted to the AFC prior to the January AFC meeting per the proposal guidelines developed in 2003. The final recommendations for funding work in 2005 need to be made prior to March 1st.

Recolonization studies funding status

Bruce provided members with a breakdown of the funds for the interim program. He explained that in 2003 and 2004 some of the recolonization projects were funded with the interim program, however it was likely that future funding for recolonization projects would be from the BPA settlement funds or other sources.

Update on Chinook genetics study

Hans Berge reported to members on new developments for the third party review of the Chinook genetics study by King County and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. He noted the WRIA 8 technical committee was supportive of a third party review that would look at the study design and sample priorities. The investigators are no longer planning on releasing preliminary data and are now planning on incorporating adult Chinook samples in the study. The first phase reviewers are likely to be Fred Utter, Jennifer McClain, Rick Taylor, and perhaps Robin Waples. Dennis M. said the Muckleshoot Tribe wants one of the peer reviewers to include one of the authors of the Brannon et al paper published in Fisheries (September 2004). The tribe would like to see someone involved that is a hatchery supporter or neutral.

Coho tagging operations

Bruce briefed members on the coho project by the University of Washington, involving radio tagging and tracking coho above Landsburg Dam. Losses of tagged females had prompted an evaluation of contributing factors and decisions about how to reduce risk of further mortality. He described the onsite review by Peter Hahn (WDFW) and Eric Warner (MIT) at Landsburg, revised protocols for tagging and the decision by the LMA Parties on how to proceed. He stated that the revised protocols that eliminated the use of MS222, disc tagging, and taking scales was now probably more conservative than the work done in 2003. He then shared with members the tagging rates that were established by the LMA Parties calling for tagging 1 in 3 female coho with all the females surviving at least 3 days. After three females are tagged and there are no tag-related mortality the tagging rate may increase in 50%. If any female coho dies due prior to spawning due to tagging the project will stop tagging females for the remainder of the season. All males may be tagged unless a problem develops with tagging males. If a problem arises that with tagging males and the AFC becomes concerned they may suspend tagging pending consultation with the LMA Parties. Bruce noted that the current project is funded as a two-year study.

Juvenile trap discussion

Bruce described some of the challenges associated with trapping fish at the bypass pipe in the fish ladder. One of the main concerns was the existing trap would have to be monitored 24 hours per day to ensure debris did not build up in the trap or screens. He then showed members a video of a trapping system that was used at the outlet of Deer

Lake in Alaska. Dr. Dick Crone, the project leader, had provided the video and it showed coho smolts moving across a w-shaped screen to a transport pipe.

Interim Sockeye hatchery

Proposed marking plan for sockeye fry

Bruce updated members on the marking plan from WDFW for fry released from the interim hatchery in 2005. The plan would mark fry for release in the upper, middle, and lower part of the river as well as early, middle, and late egg take.

Summary and discussion of 2004 egg take operations

Brodie reported the weir was being removed today and the hatchery had 16.2 million eggs incubating. With approximately 1,000 to spawn in the ponds the hatchery would be very close to meeting the egg take goal of 17.2 million eggs.

Information and discussion items

The meeting was running ahead of schedule so Bruce skipped down to the information and discussion items prior to moving onto the remaining items under the section new sockeye hatchery.

Sockeye and Chinook counts in Cedar River

In an email on fish counts Steve Foley reported the sockeye numbers are lower than expected but Chinook numbers were higher than expected. Bill R. added the need for consistency when it comes to sockeye releases and marking.

New sockeye hatchery - Continued

SEIS update and adaptive management plan discussion

Judith Noble briefed AFC members on the development of the SEIS. She noted the project was running about a month behind schedule however the draft should be released in late December. For the last few months SPU has been working on the worst case analysis and the use of thresholds in the Adaptive Management Program (AMP). The worst case analysis involved compiling and reviewing the notes from the worst case analysis workshop discussions and developing them into worst case analysis. Some of the experts that have been consulted in this process are Tom Quinn, Ernie Brannon, Dave Beauchamp, and Ray Hilborn. She also briefed members on using thresholds in the SEIS.

Public comment

Toby Thaler asked Judith Noble if there would be a no action alternative in the SEIS. Judith answered no and stated the Hearing Examiner did not require a no action alternative in the SEIS. Toby stated that if the whole point of the SEIS was to inform elected officials then there should be a no action alternative. He added that without this alternative you could expect the SEIS to be appealed. He also stated the underlying assumption in the HCP that identifies the sockeye hatchery as mitigation should be revisited. He urged the AFC to demand that the City include the no action alternative.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.